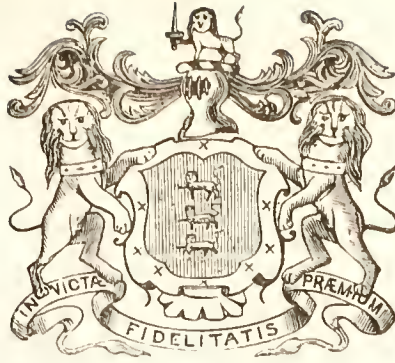




ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

CITY OF HEREFORD

1904.

BY

H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, CITY OF HEREFORD: FELLOW OF
THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH:
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH:
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

HEREFORD:
"MERCURY" OFFICE, 32, EIGN STREET.

HEREFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Sanitary Committee

FOR THE ENSUING YEAR, 1905:—

ALDERMAN C. WITTS, *Mayor*.

ALDERMAN H. ROGERS, *Chairman*.

Alderman W. BOYCOTT.

Councillor W. C. GETHEN.

Alderman T. TURNER.

Councillor E. C. GURNEY.

Councillor T. J. COOK.

Councillor J. O. LANE.

Councillor S. H. PROSSER.

Clerk to the Sanitary Committee JOSEPH CARLESS.

Medical Officer of Health ... H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Sanitary Inspector ... S. PROTHEROE, Assoc. Royal Sanitary
Institute.

Medical Officer, Isolation Hospital EDWARD H. COLLENS, M.B. (LOND.),
M.R.C.S., &c.

Matron ... MISS B. M. STAFFORD



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

Town Council, City of Hereford,

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

Hereford, January, 1905.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my ANNUAL REPORT for the year 1904, copies of which will be forwarded, in accordance with the Order, Art. 18, Sec. 14, of March 23rd, 1891, to the Local Government Board and to the County Council; also to the Secretary of State, as required by Section 132 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

The Report is made in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board. The Returns of Vital Statistics, drawn up on the Forms supplied by the Local Government Board, are appended at the end of the Report—in Tables I., II., III., and IV., concerning which a few explanatory remarks are now given.

TABLE I.

In column 2 it will be observed that the population is estimated, not to the end of the year, but to the middle of the year; the increment of the twelve months is based upon the difference between the births and deaths in the two last quarters of 1903 and the two first quarters of 1904, with an allowance deducted for removals from the city by migrations. The difference without such deductions is 217.

The birth-rates and death-rates are calculated upon a population of 21,900 in the middle of 1904.

You will be gratified upon observing in column 13 the death-rate 15.11, estimated to the middle of 1904, is the lowest ever recorded in your City. The death-rate to 31st December, 1904, is 15.10. The 331 nett deaths belonging to your Urban District include the deaths of 9 citizens who died in the Lunatic Asylum, an institution outside your District, where an average of 86 cases have been chargeable to your City during the year 1904.

Further explanations will be found in the Notes under Table I.

TABLE II.

This Table, bearing reference to each separate Ward of the City, commences with the decennial census of 1901. The increase of population in each separate Ward is estimated on the ratio of 217 to 200 as to the difference between the births and deaths in each Ward.

TABLE III.

In this Table Notifications of Infectious Disease are classified not only as to localities, but also as to ages of patients, and removals to the Isolation Hospital. The Forms from which this Table is summarised indicate at once whether or no any disease is confined to any special locality.

TABLE IV.

- (a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are included with other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-11, included among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner excluded from columns 2-8 and 9-11 of this Table.
- (b) The notes on Table I. show the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and the "Public Institutions" are taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" are the same as those in Tables II. and III.
- (c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.
- (d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-11 of this Table equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table equal the gross total of columns 9-11, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.
- (e) For the mutual guidance of the Certifying Medical Practitioner the following instructions from the Local Government Board are given:—

Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras
(in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the Certifying Practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the special term "Diarrhœa." Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, was adopted in January, 1890.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, was adopted in April, 1891.

The Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890; Parts II., III., and V., were adopted in April, 1891.

Chicken-pox was made notifiable indefinitely in Hereford on March 15th, 1902.

PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE CITY, AREA,
POPULATION, &c.

It is unnecessary to repeat the Physical Features of the City, which were given with details in my Report for 1902.

In the same Report, page 6, the area of each separate civil Parish and Ward were given, forming in the aggregate 5,031 acres, or 7.86 square miles.

The circumferential boundary of the City is $17\frac{1}{4}$ miles, embracing about 50 miles of streets and roads repairable by the Corporation. One mile of the River Wye forms part of the boundary; $10\frac{1}{2}$ miles lie on the North side of the river, and $5\frac{3}{4}$ on its South.

The population of each decade from 1801 to 1901 was given on page 6 of my Report for 1902.

The population of the last ten years is given in the excellent Form, Table I., first adopted by the Local Government Board in 1901 for the Annual Report for the year 1900.

The population, not making any allowance for removals from the City, is estimated at 21,983 on the 31st December, 1904.

Birth-rates, death-rates, etc., are calculated upon the estimate of a population of 21,900 at the middle of the year 1904.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

SUMMARY.

Area of Municipal Borough	Acres	5,031
Rateable value	£	117,430
Produce of penny rate	£	482 5s. 10d.
Population at middle of 1904		21,900
Population at Census of 1901		21,382
Number of inhabited houses at Census of 1901		4,565
Average number of persons to each house at Census of 1901		4.68
Death-rate 1904, per 1,000 living		15.11
Average death-rate for previous ten years		16.8
Birth-rate 1904		22.3
Average birth-rate for previous ten years		25.5
Infant death-rate (under 1 year old) per 1,000 living ...		120
Average Infant death-rate do. do. for previous 10 years		131

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTH-RATE.—489 births were registered in 1904, representing a birth-rate of 22.3. This is the lowest birth-rate recorded for the last thirteen years. The average birth-rate of the last ten years is 25.5. Of these births 7 were premature, the infants surviving from a few hours to a few days.

Illegitimate.—Of the above 489 births, as many as 27, or 5.5 per cent. were illegitimate. This does not include 3 illegitimate children of non-residents. There was no mortality amongst the illegitimates.

DEATH-RATE.—331 deaths of citizens were registered in 1904. These deaths include those of 9 citizens who died in the Lunatic Asylum, in the Hereford Rural District. The death-rate estimated to the middle of the year 1904 is 15.11. The average death-rate of the previous ten years is 16.8. This is the lowest death-rate recorded for the last thirty years since the passing of the Public Health Act in Hereford in the year 1875.

The death-rate recorded in the year 1876 was 28.8.

The death-rate estimated to 31st December, 1904, is 15.10.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.—3; all infants; aged respectively 2 days, 18 days, and 1 month, and all deaths ascribed to Convulsions.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The deaths of 59 infants under one year were registered. The Infant Mortality per 1,000 births is 120. The average Infant Mortality of the last ten years is 134. The deaths were principally due to Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and there were 7 deaths registered as premature births.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.—From *Notifiable Infectious Diseases* 15 deaths were registered as follows:—Scarlet Fever 4, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup 7, Puerperal Fever 1, and from Erysipelas 3.

From *Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases* 1 was due to Measles, 10 to Whooping Cough, and 4 to Influenza.

THE SEVEN CHIEF EPIDEMIC DISEASES are:—(1) Small-pox; (2) Measles; (3) Scarlet Fever; (4) Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup; (5) Whooping Cough; (6) Fever (including Typhus, Enteric, and ill-defined Fevers); and (7) Diarrhœa.

Of the deaths from the above 10 were due to Whooping Cough; 7 to Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup; 4 to Scarlet Fever; 3 to Diarrhœa; and 1 due to Measles; making an aggregate of 25 deaths, or an average Zymotic death-rate of 1.14 per thousand.

For the sake of comparison the following Table is given, in advance of circulation, by courtesy from the Returns of the Registrar-General:—

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1904.

	Annual Rates per 1000 living.			Infant Mortality Annual Death- rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 Births.
	Births.	Deaths from all Causes.	Death-rate seven chief Epidemic Diseases.	
England and Wales ...	27.9	16.2	1.94	146
76 Great Towns ...	29.1	17.2	2.49	160
142 Smaller Towns ...	27.5	15.6	2.02	154
Rural England and Wales	26.8	15.3	1.28	125
HEREFORD ...	22.3	15.1	1.14	120

REMARKS.

It will be observed that whilst the birth-rate has sensibly diminished, the death-rate from each respective cause is more favourable than all Rural England and Wales.

INFLUENZA.—Of the 4 deaths attributed to Influenza, one was an adult in the month of July; the other three were aged persons, one in the 68th year, one in the 70th year, the third in the 80th year, in the months of March, August, and December.

PHTHISIS.—29 deaths, inclusive of one death in the Lunatic Asylum; above the average; principally amongst the families of labourers and artisans, and the majority occurring during the inclement first and fourth quarters of the year.

OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES.—12 deaths, of which 9 were children under 5 years of age.

CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.—13 deaths; below the average.

DISEASES OF THE RESPIRATORY ORGANS.—63 deaths. There was great mortality from Bronchitis and Pneumonia during the inclement first quarter of the year.

ALCOHOLISM AND CIRRHOSIS OF LIVER.—Of the total 3 deaths, one is attributed to Alcoholism.

HEART DISEASES.—34 deaths; considerably below the average.

ACCIDENTS AND INQUEST CASES.—18 deaths; about the average.

ALL OTHER CAUSES.—115 deaths. The majority were cases registered Senile Decay.

OLD AGE.—Of 83 who survived three score years and ten, 55 were of ages varying from 70 to 80, 24 of ages between 80 and 90, whilst 4 reached their 90th year. The greatest age registered was 93. The mortality was most marked in the first and fourth quarters of the year.

DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 FROM THE PRINCIPAL DISEASES.

Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	0.00
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	0.04
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.18
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	0.45
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	0.31
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	0.00
Fever	{ Typhus	...	...	...	...	0.00
	{ Enteric	...	...	...	...	0.00
	{ Other continued	...	...	...	...	0.00
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	0.18
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	0.13
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	0.13
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	0.04
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	0.13
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0.00
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	1.32
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0.51
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	...	0.59
Diseases of the Respiratory Organs	...	...	...	...	...	2.87
Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	...	0.04
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	0.09
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	...	0.31
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	0.01
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1.55
Accidents and Inquest Cases	...	...	...	...	...	0.82

TABLE OF DEATHS.

From the principal forms of Disease during the last Ten Years.

Name of Disease.	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	Total
Small-pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	3	0	16	3	0	11	0	1	16	1	51
Scarlet Fever...	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	13
Whooping Cough ...	1	13	0	0	0	14	6	2	2	10	48
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	11	11	6	3	1	1	2	2	2	7	46
Typhoid Fever ...	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	5
Influenza ...	0	0	5	5	9	12	6	6	5	4	52
Diarrhoea ...	6	5	5	5	5	4	3	2	1	3	39
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	4
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	5
Phthisis ...	32	28	34	30	24	25	28	22	21	29	273
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	Data not available for the 3 years.			11	11	14	15	6	18	12	90 in 7 years.
Cancer ...	Data not available for the 3 years.			16	25	22	22	26	25	13	149 in 7 years.
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, & Diseases of the Respiratory Organs ...	58	48	51	38	43	63	49	58	39	63	513
Heart Disease ...	53	51	25	30	42	43	48	52	41	34	419
Inquests and Injuries..	12	21	25	14	24	26	17	43	24	18	191

From the last column in the above Table the average annual mortality from each Disease is readily determined.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES—(1) NON-NOTIFIABLE AND (2) NOTIFIABLE.

1.—NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

MEASLES.—This complaint, which prevailed during the previous year 1903, was continued during the early weeks of 1904. There was 1 death in the first week of the year.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This complaint prevailed during the first three quarters of the year. An aggregate of 10 deaths were due to Whooping Cough; 2 in the first quarter, 5 in the second quarter, and 3 in the third quarter of the year.

2.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The *Notifiable* Infectious Diseases in Hereford are:—Small-pox; Cholera; Diphtheria; Membranous Croup; Erysipelas; Scarlet Fever, the Fevers known as Typhus, Typhoid or Enteric, Relapsing or Continued; any of the forms of Fever connected with Childbirth, *whenever associated with Septic infection* (as Pyæmia, Sep-

ticæmia, Pelvic Peritonitis, Perimetritis, and Endometritis occurring in the Puerperium), and known under the general term of Puerperal Fever.

To the above add Chicken-pox, which has been made notifiable in Hereford indefinitely since 15th March, 1902, and Plague, which is notifiable throughout the Kingdom. One important advantage in the notification of Chicken-pox is that it has enabled me to report to the Vaccination Officer a few cases of new residents and others whose vaccination has by some means been neglected.

INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Table III., at the end of this Report, gives the number of cases notified during the year in each respective locality as regards Ward or Public Institution, and the removals to the Isolation Hospital.

DIPHTHERIA.—31 cases notified. The thirty-four cases occurred in 30 houses, and at least four of them were imported cases from outside the City. One case was notified in the first quarter; 6 in the second, 10 in the third, and 17 in the fourth quarter.

Five cases were notified from Ledbury Ward, 16 from Leominster Ward, and 9 from Monmouth Ward; the remaining 4 cases, chiefly non-residents from the Rural Districts, were notified from the General Hospital. One of the cases here included in Ledbury Ward was notified from the Governor's House, County Prison.

MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—Both the 2 cases notified were from 2 separate houses in Leominster Ward.

Of the 7 deaths from Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, 4 occurred in Public Institutions.

ERYSIPELAS.—The 42 cases notified occurred in 41 houses, distributed as follows:—11 in Ledbury Ward, 11 in Leominster Ward, and 17 in Monmouth Ward. Three deaths occurred, one in each Ward, inclusive of the death of a patient from Monmouth Ward in the General Hospital.

SCARLET FEVER.—Of the 65 cases notified 54 occurred in the last quarter of the year. The incidence in the separate Wards was as follows:—27 in Ledbury, 27 in Leominster, and 11 in Monmouth Ward. The 65 cases were limited to 45 houses, inclusive of a case removed from the General Hospital to the Isolation Hospital.

Two of the attacks were of a malignant nature before removal to the Hospital; a third lapsed into Diphtheria, and the fourth was complicated with Bronchitis.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Of 3 cases notified, one was most probably contracted whilst travelling; one was a non-resident, a visitor to Hereford from the colliery districts of Brynmawr, where Typhoid Fever prevailed; the third had been recently employed in local drainage works. There was no death of any citizen.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Of the 2 cases notified, one was a non-resident, of apparently no fixed abode, who died in the General Hospital. The other, a citizen, recovered.

CHICKEN-POX.—The 31 cases occurred in 26 houses.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Total number of cases admitted into the City Infectious Diseases Hospital since its opening on 10th May, 1893.

DISEASE.	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	Total.
Small-pox ...	9	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Scarlet Fever ...	15	38	70	17	39	16	33	24	32	27	12	45	368
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	4
Typhoid Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
Measles ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
TOTAL ...	25	38	70	27	40	19	34	24	33	27	12	45	394

Number of Cases admitted into the Isolation Hospital from the City, the General Hospital, the Workhouse, and the County respectively.*

YEAR.	CITY.				GENERAL HOSPITAL.			WORKHOUSE		COUNTY*	TOTAL.
	Small-pox	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Small-pox	Scarlet Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	
1893	8	15	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	25
1894	...	33	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	38
1895	...	68	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	70
1896	9	16	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	27
1897	...	35	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	40
1898	...	16	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
1899	...	26	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	1	34
1900	...	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
1901	...	32	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
1902	...	26	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	27
1903	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	12
1904	...	44	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	45
TOTAL	17	346	4	2	18	1	1	1	1	3	394

*The City Isolation Hospital was built by the Corporation and provided for the use of the Citizens only. The Sanitary Committee resolved (May 8th, 1899), that in future no Patient from the County should be admitted, and that the Hospital beds should be devoted exclusively to cases of residents in the City. The adjoining Rural Districts of Hereford and of Weobley have now an excellent Isolation Hospital.

TOTAL DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES IN THE HEREFORD CITY
INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

YEAR.	CASES ADMITTED FROM THE CITY.		CASES ADMITTED FROM THE GENERAL HOSPITAL.	TOTAL.
	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	
1893	1	...	...	1
1894	...	...	...	...
1895	1	...	...	1
1896	...	...	...	...
1897	...	1	1	2
1898	...	...	...	...
1899	1	...	...	1
1900	1	...	..	1
1901	...	1	...	1
1902	...	...	...	...
1903	1	...	...	1
1904	4	...	...	4
TOTAL ...	9	2	1	12

SCARLET FEVER STATISTICS, HEREFORD.

YEAR	ESTIMATED POPULATION.	NOTIFICATIONS	UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.	TOTAL DEATHS.	TREATED IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.	ATTACK PER 1,000 POPULATION.	MORTALITY PER 1,000 POPULATION.	PERCENTAGE REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.	DEATHS IN HOSPITAL.	NOTES.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1875	19,100			7			36			
1876	19,200			5			290			
1877	19,300			11			57			
1878	19,400			1			20			
1879	19,550			0			00			
1880	19,700			5			25			
1881	19,882			13			65			
1882				12			60			
1883	20,000	62	20	9		3.10	45			
1884		21	11	1		1.65	04			At this period (1883 to 1889 inclusive) notifications were voluntary, consequently comparisons with other years are highly unsatisfactory or worthless.
1885		7	3	0		0.35	00			
1886		15	5	1		0.75	04			
1887		33	3	0		1.65	00			
1888	20,100	9	4	0		0.44	00			Compulsory Notification adopted January, 1890.
1889	20,150	14	6	0		0.69	00			
1890	20,200	32	9	0		1.58	00			ISOLATION HOSPITAL OPENED MAY 10, 1893.
1891	20,200	26	10	1		1.28	04			
1892	20,360	72	40	0		3.53	00			
1893	20,440	165	94	16	15	8.07	78	9	1	
1894	20,580	146	81	3	38	7.09	14	26	0	
1895	20,720	155	54	3	70	7.48	14	45	1	
1896	20,860	70	20	0	17	3.35	00	24	0	
1897	21,000	65	25	3	39	3.09	14	60	1	
1898	21,140	31	8	0	16	1.46	00	51	0	
1899	21,250	39	13	1	33	1.83	01	85	1	<i>a</i>
1900	21,270	37	15	1	24	1.73	04	65	1	<i>b</i>
1901	21,400	51	15	0	32	2.38	00	63	0	
1902	21,550	36	8	0	27	1.67	00	75	0	<i>c</i>
1903	21,700	24	8	1	12	1.10	04	50	1	<i>d</i>
1904	21,900	65	8	4	45	2.96	18	69	4	<i>e</i>

a This patient was, after professional consultation, very carefully removed to the Isolation Hospital. She was in an almost hopeless condition, and death appeared imminent under her very unsuitable home surroundings.

b A delicate child with an unfavourable medical history.

c The Isolation Hospital was closed to the public by order of the Sanitary Committee on February 24th, 1902, pending the erection of a Temporary Isolation Hospital for Small-pox cases. The Hospital was re-opened on 21st April. During that period 8 patients suffering from Scarlet Fever were treated in their own homes.

d A child exceedingly ill upon removal to Hospital.

e Of these 4 cases, 2 were of a malignant character, and considered almost hopeless before removal to Hospital; the third lapsed into a diphtheritic type; the fourth was complicated with Bronchitis.

Compulsory Notification was adopted in January, 1890, consequently it has been in force for 15 years. If we divide this into 3 periods of 5 years each, the subjoined comparative results are afforded us.

PERIODS.	NOTIFICATIONS.	TREATED IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS.	RATE OF ATTACK PER 1000 OF POPULATION.	DEATH RATE PER 1000 OF POPULATION.
1890 to 1894	441	During only the 2 years 1893 & 1894 . . . 53	20	4.31	0.19
1895 to 1899	360	During 5 years 175	7	3.44	0.06
1900 to 1904	213	During 5 years 140	6	1.96	0.05
15 YEARS	1014	During 12 years 368	33	Average 3.23	Average 0.10

RETURN CASES.—This subject was treated in detail in my Report for 1903. It is again and again confirmed that the occurrence of a certain proportion of "Return cases" is inevitable, and that they occur everywhere from Isolation Hospitals where particular attention is paid to cleansing of the hair and skin, to the use of antiseptic lotions for the nose and mouth, to examination of discharges from the ears, to antiseptic baths previous to discharge, and to disinfection of the clothes of the patient.

Such recurrence being beyond human knowledge and control, it is impossible to guarantee freedom from infection after the discharge of a patient. The parents or guardians are given printed instructions as to the most prudent methods to be adopted upon the return of a patient to his home.

It is a gratification that not a single "Return case" from the Hospital has occurred during 1904.

Home-infections occurring in the same house after removal of the patient, including home-treated cases, amount to a total of 36 in 14 infected homes of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria collectively; in some cases an interval of apparent immunity for 4 or 5 weeks intervened subsequent to the first attack.

The removal of the patient immediately upon the receipt of the notification has been carried out with remarkable despatch, as well by night as in the daylight, often in most inclement weather, and sometimes under difficulties into which I will not enter. It would be unpardonable if I omitted to give my testimony that unforeseen contingencies have been surmounted by the discretion, zeal, activity, and mutual co-operation of the Matron of the Hospital and the Sanitary Inspector; their actions in emergencies have been cool, decisive, successful, unknown save to the few concerned, and highly deserving of credit. Towards the expeditious execution of much of their work the telephonic communication has proved a valuable auxiliary.

SCARLET FEVER.—No special cause of the invasion of Scarlet Fever during the last quarter of the year can be assigned. Our excellent model form of enquiries in connection with each individual case failed to associate its extension as generally attributable to aggregation in schools, in places of public resort, laundries, milk supplies, or other causes. It may have been influenced by prevailing meteorological conditions during October, contemporaneous with the increasing prevalence of Zymotic Diseases over the greater part of the Kingdom, inasmuch as the Weekly Returns from 262 towns of England and Wales showed during ten weeks an increase of Scarlet Fever from 1,100 to more than 2,600 in one week; during the same period the weekly notifications of Erysipelas were doubled, and those of Diphtheria much increased.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.—The 45 patients removed to the Isolation Hospital were limited to sufferers from Scarlet Fever. The administration quarters, staff, and organisation are not calculated for the admission simultaneously of both Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever cases; their promiscuous mingling is too dangerous to be entertained. A child seriously ill, admitted under the notification of Scarlet Fever, in the course of a few days lapsed into Diphtheria; an entire separate ward was reserved for the proper isolation of this individual patient, to the exclusion of urgent cases of Scarlet Fever which would otherwise have been removed from the city at a period when great pressure was put upon the accommodation; this pressure was only relieved, unfortunately, by the death of the child after an illness of the duration of one week.

The routine work and responsibilities of the officials have been sorely tried by the indiscretions of visitors. In November prudence compelled the closure of the Hospital to visitors. In urgent cases relatives are summoned by telephone, and telephone communication with the Matron is of constant daily occurrence.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY BOOKS.—It has been customary to commandeer all circulating books found in infected houses, and to treat them by steam disinfection. It is next to impossible to properly disinfect books. On 20th December the Free Library resolved to decline the return of books so treated; consequently they will be retained for the use of the patients. Gifts of papers, especially illustrated papers, magazines, and books, are always acceptable. Books in the Isolation Hospital Library will not be retained for an indefinite period; some must be consumed by fire.

AMBULANCE CARRIAGE.—At a great expense, the Isolation Hospital has possession of a model ambulance conveyance. The waggon for conveying bedding and clothes for disinfection is also excellent. We are still in need of a conveyance in the contingency of a case of Small-pox. The presentation of a closed second-hand conveyance, or the notification to the Sanitary Committee of one on sale, will be gratefully acknowledged.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF SUSPECTED DIPHTHERIA CASES.—Each Medical Practitioner in the City has been supplied with an outfit containing a swab for testing suspected cases of Diphtheria, to be forwarded to Professor Stanley Kent, of University College.

Bristol. In urgent cases the charges incurred will, where the patient cannot reasonably be expected to pay, be defrayed by the Sanitary Committee.

Tubercule and Serum examination in cases of suspected Typhoid Fever are undertaken by the same bacteriologist.

CONSUMPTION.

Of 1,500 cards printed, of which a copy will be found on page 17 of the Annual Report for 1903, nearly all have been distributed amongst places of public resort in the City.

The Annual Meeting of the Herefordshire Branch of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption was held in the Town Hall on 13th June.

Leetures do not attract the man in the street. The most far-reaching knowledge will be diffused amongst the rising generation, and the richest reward will be reaped, by teachers in the Elementary Schools including principles of Hygiene in their course of instruction.

DISINFECTION.

The standardisation of Disinfectants as to their bacteriological and germicidal value, primarily moved by Dr. Rideal, D.Sc., at the Sanitary Congress, Bradford, was treated in my Annual Report for 1903. The report of the Committee has not yet been issued.

So far Cyllin (Jeyes' Sanitary Compounds Co.) maintains its position as the most powerful Coal-tar disinfectant (see *British Medical Journal*, April 9th, 1904, page 853; *Public Health*, June, 1904, page 563; *Lancet*, August 20th, 1904, page 524), with the advantage of being ten times less poisonous than pure Carbolie Acid. Tests with Carbolic Acid, Formalin, Izal, and Sanitas are given on pages 13 to 16 of *British Medical Journal*, July 2nd, 1904. See also *Journal of State Medicine*, January, 1904.

Floors subjected to the spitting of consumptive patients may be washed and kept well moistened for 6 hours with a solution of Cyllin, 1 in 160; equivalent to 1 ounce (2 tablespoonfuls) of Cyllin in one gallon pail of water. The floors of bars of public-houses may be advantageously sprinkled at night with the above solution, and swept out every morning.

• SCHOOLS.

No action has been necessary during the year on account of any infectious disease.

HOUSES.

The distribution over 5,031 acres of 4,565 inhabited houses in ten parishes is given on page 18 of my Annual Report for 1902; so also on the same page their distribution in each separate Ward.

The annual progress in house-building, from information received from the office of Mr. Parker, City Surveyor, is given below :—

Date.	New Houses for which Plans have been approved.	Other Buildings.	New Houses completed and inspected.	Other Buildings.
During the Year 1901	79	6	43	7
„ „ 1902	78	6	36	6
„ „ 1903	50	12	65	11
„ „ 1904	51	16	50	8

The new Building Bye-Laws, revised in 1903, have been approved in 1904, and adopted.

Under the auspices of the Hereford City and County Benefit Building Society building is steadily developing in the Moor Estate in Grandstand Road, and drainage preliminary work about to be commenced in the Moor Park Estate, in the Whitecross neighbourhood.

HOUSES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—Of several houses condemned, some have been rendered fit again for habitation, with the exception mainly of houses in the Bewell Street area. The most favourable disposition of this area has engaged long and serious consideration by the Sanitary Committee; negotiations have been proceeding towards the acquisition of various properties; plans and amended plans with estimates have been submitted. At the close of the year the subject remains under the deliberate consideration which its importance demands.

REGISTERED COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.—The annual anniversion of our Common Lodging-Houses, seven in number, is repeated. One of the oldest and largest, capable of accommodating 32 lodgers, is in the Bewell Street area. One of the various schemes submitted for consideration embraces the provision of a Model Lodging-House.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—Five in number; the vicinity of the majority of them to dwelling-houses cannot be regarded otherwise than with disfavour.

PUBLIC SLAUGHTER-HOUSE.—The open-to-the-air position of this Public Abattoir is highly favourable; its general arrangements received the general approbation of the South Wales Branch of the Society of Medical Officers on the occasion of their visit to Hereford

on 17th March, 1904. The annually increasing use by butchers of the Public Slaughter-House is shown in the following Table:—

		1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	each					
Beeves ...	1/-	959	1,122	1,183	1,142	1,146
Calves ...	6d.	429	432	424	338	358
Sheep ...	2d.	4,441	4,401	4,760	5,002	5,222
Lambs ...	2d.	1,131	1,139	1,385	1,391	1,572
Pigs (Pork)	6d.	1,405	1,100	1,198	1,338	1,366
„ (Bacon)	9d.	149	113	164	508	380
TOTAL ...		8,514	8,307	9,114	9,719	10,044

During 1904 the Piggeries have been in use 106 times.

SEIZURE OF TUBERCULOUS MEAT.—On this subject we are guided by the circular dated September 7th, 1904, from the Local Government Board, after their consideration of the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Tuberculosis (Animals) Compensation Bills, 1904. The notification by any butcher of his possession of tuberculous meat so soon as he is aware of it will exempt him from the penalties of prosecution.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS, AND PURVEYORS OF MILK.—We have numerous retailers and purveyors of milk, registered in accordance with the Order of 1885. During the year 1904 five new names, including one cowkeeper, have been added to the Register. Two applications have been refused on the grounds of unsuitability of the premises and surroundings.

The Monthly Reports to the Town Council of the Sanitary Inspector show that a largely increased number of samples of Milk have been analysed during 1904 by the City Analyst, with the result of a remarkably favourable report as to the genuineness of our general Milk supply.

Out of more than forty samples only one was strikingly deficient below the minimum of fat required by the standard of the Board of Agriculture.

On this subject see the summary in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—For similar highly satisfactory results as to the samples of food submitted during the year to the City Analyst, see the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

These favourable reports must prove most gratifying not only to your citizens and to visitors, but also to the tradesmen who provide them with their daily supplies.

SEWAGE.—No. 2 Bacteria bed has been in operation since the month of May. The two Bacteria beds relieve the land irrigation system of about 400,000 gallons of sewage daily. A third bed is in course of construction. The effluent from the Bacteria beds is submitted to land drainage before its discharge into the river. At the meeting, in Hereford, of the Medical Officers of Health of South Wales, excellent samples of the effluent were exhibited which had been kept in bottles for a period of fourteen months.

VENTILATION OF SEWERS.—During the year a Webb's Sewer-Gas Lamp Destructor has been fixed in Hafod Road. There are now 22 of these ventilators in the City.

HOUSE REFUSE.—About half of the daily house refuse of the City forms fuel, in place of coal, for the Destructor, and steam power for the sewage pumping works; after perfect combustion and proper regulation in the furnaces the products pass in light vapour through a chimney 45 feet high. The supply in summer is as great as in the winter, owing to the refuse consisting not only of ashes, but of a promiscuous mixture of papers, vegetables, and fish and market rubbish, etc., with an alarming percentage of tins and bottles.

DUST-BINS.—Although a 6-gallon galvanized iron dust-bin with cover is in the market at the price of 4s. 6d., this receptacle for house refuse is not so much adopted by the citizens as it ought to be.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.—The substitution, at the estimate of £700, of a Public Convenience for each separate sex, opening respectively into Blue School Street and Maylord Street, for an objectionable Urinal in Maylord Street, remains under consideration.

SMOKE PREVENTION.—The use of mechanical stokers by our manufacturers, in addition to their economical advantages, can considerably relieve us of air pollution by black smoke, provided always there is no improper feeding due to ignorance, or want of attention on the part of the stoker, seeing that a definite amount of air, or oxygen, is required for a certain amount of fuel.

WATER SUPPLY.—The quality of our Water continues good, although towards the end of the year the discolouration observed in the oxygen absorption test, and in the solids residue upon evaporation, has been more pronounced. This discolouration I consider is principally due to the occasional peaty water from the upper tributaries, and sources of the Wye, and partly to the myriads of needle-shaped leaves of the conifers, and other leaves from the trees on the banks of the Reservoir. In a column of water the discolouration is not so conspicuous to the eye as is the filtered water supplied to the large population of Birmingham from the Elan Valley Reservoirs since their opening on 21st July, 1901, which has been certified perfectly harmless.

The area of our Filter Beds is given as 20,000 superficial feet, sufficient (*not allowing for contingencies*) for our daily demand, which, from our three railway companies, breweries, aerated-water manufacturers, baths, etc., etc., must on some days approach, if it does not reach, an aggregate of one million gallons. Before any further

extension of the Water Supply to an increased demand be sanctioned, the subject of the provision of extra Filter Beds should receive serious consideration. During the imperative occasional cleaning of one or other of the Sand Filtration Beds, an operation of a few days' duration, the limit of filtration to 10,000 superficial feet during that period too closely approaches the danger-signal point.

WELL WATER SUPPLY.—The outlying districts of Grafton, Hunderton, Redhill, and Putson, on the south of the Wye, and those of King's Acre, Huntington, Westfields, Holmer Within, and portions of Tupsley, in the northerly area of the City, draw their water supply from wells.

Towards the end of May, a very serious contamination occurred of the well water supplying 5 houses in Arkwright Terrace, Westfields; which was not reported to the authorities until the 6th of June. The pollution was due to the overflowing of an inspection chamber connected with the surface drainage system in Westfield Street, and of a gulley in close proximity to the well, the top of which was below the ground level, inefficiently protected, and otherwise improperly constructed. At a joint meeting of the Waterworks and Sewers Committees it was resolved to carry off the surface drainage through a Carbon Filter, and to extend the drainage southwards down Westfield Street, thence across a meadow to finally discharge through a coke bed into a ditch alongside the railway. This work was completed in July. The well was properly reconstructed, the tenants meanwhile being provided with water conveyed by the directions of the City Surveyor. At the end of July the tenants were once more supplied with an excellent and copious water supply.

It is a matter of extreme urgency that the earliest suspicion even of the pollution of any water supply should be always brought to our attention without delay.

WELL CONSTRUCTION.—By insisting upon the proper construction of wells, the water supply can be rendered safe. For the guidance of builders and others, the Sanitary Committee provides the following memorandum, originally issued in 1901 by the Rural District Council of Chelmsford (James Dewhurst, Surveyor and Engineer), see page 30 of "The Examination of Waters and Water Supplies," by Dr. John C. Thresh. From the Committee of the Royal Sanitary Institute I have obtained permission to reproduce the specimens of Well Construction from page 515 of the Journal of the Sanitary Institute, Vol. xxii., 1901.

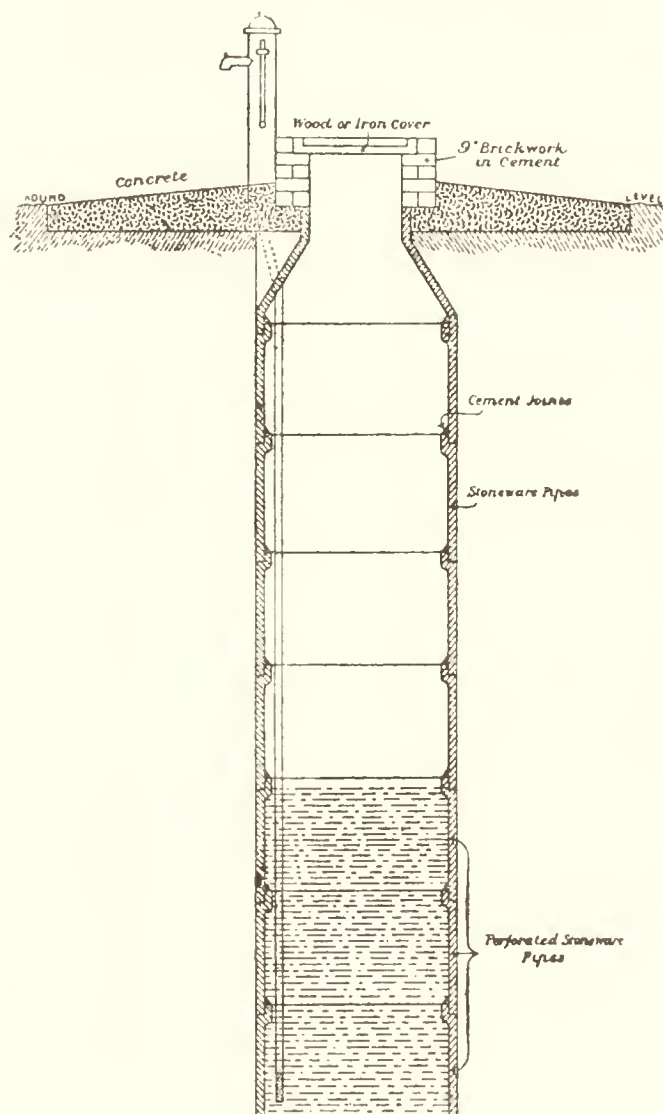
CITY OF HEREFORD.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF SHALLOW WELLS.

In the large majority of cases where shallow wells yield polluted water it is due to defects in construction of the wells. The following suggestions are submitted by the Sanitary Committee, upon the

SPECIMEN.

CONSTRUCTION OF SHALLOW WELLS.

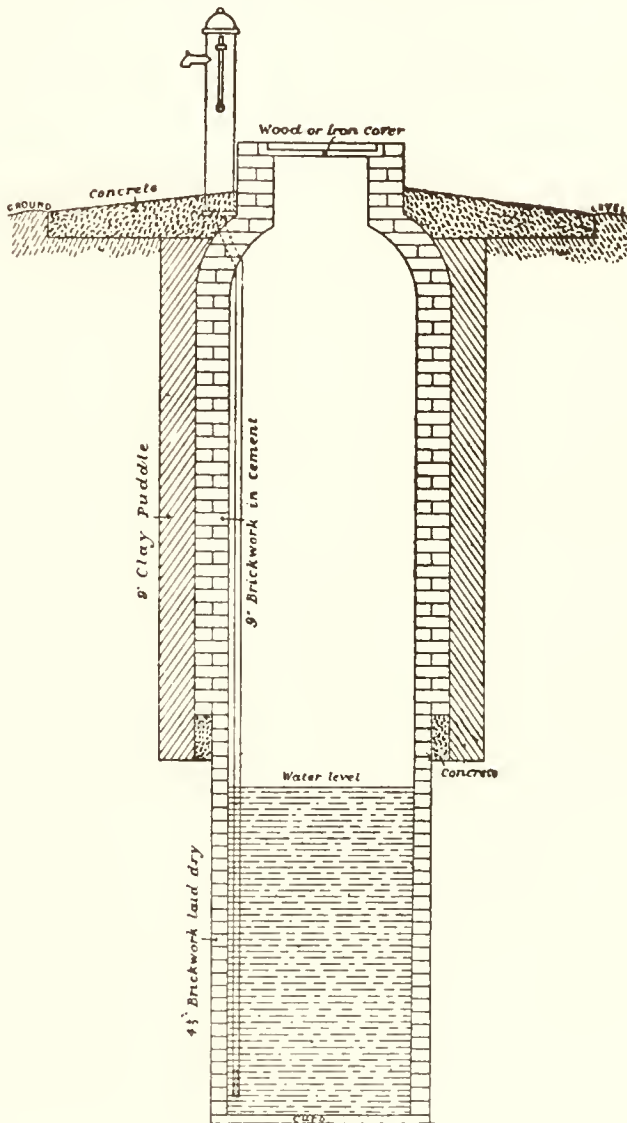


advice of their Officers, for the construction of such wells. The water which enters a well at a depth of 6 to 12 feet, depending upon the porosity of the soil, is usually efficiently filtered and purified. Water entering at a less depth is nearly always liable to be imperfectly purified and unsatisfactory in quality. The nearer the ground surface at which water can enter the greater the danger of pollution.

It follows, therefore, that the upper 6 to 12 feet of the well should be water-tight, and that the top should be so finished off that no surface water can possibly gain access. It is also very desirable that the top of the well should be brought up 6 to 12 inches above the ground surface and covered with a proper flagstone or wood or iron cover.

SPECIMEN.

CONSTRUCTION OF SHALLOW WELLS.



Plans showing two of the simplest methods of well construction are appended.

As no new house can be occupied without a certificate from the Sanitary Authority to the effect that the house has a sufficient supply of wholesome water, it is important that builders and others should pay particular attention to the above suggestions, and so avoid the risk of a certificate being refused.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Inspections have been made, and, where necessary, notices have been sent to Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homeworkers' Premises. Where defects have been found they have been remedied with one single exception, which is under consideration. There have been no prosecutions during the year.

Action has been taken in matters brought to our notice by H.M. Inspector, and such action has received his satisfactory recognition.

Certificates have been granted to 2 Underground Bakehouses.

The Act is in thorough working order in Hereford. Registers are kept of Workshops, Workshops' Records Book, and Records of Outworkers' Book.

A general summary is given in the appended Table, on the form approved by the Secretary of State. A more full statement, in detail, appears in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, and I trust that the proper execution of work in this Department will again receive the approbation of H.M. Inspector of Factories.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for 1904,

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF HEREFORD.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces & Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	9	2	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	145	17	—
Workplaces	16	2	—
Homeworkers' Premises	158	—	—
Total	328	21	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	10	10	—	—
Want of ventilation	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	8	8	—	—
†Sanitary accommodations {insufficient	—	—	—	—
{unsuitable or defective	4	3	—	—
{not separate for sexes... ..	—	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (S. 101)	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
Failure as regards lists of outworkers (S. 107)	—	—	—	—
Giving out work to {unwholesome (S. 108)	—	—	—	—
{be done in premises	—	—	—	—
{infected (S. 110)	—	—	—	—
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or small-pox (S. 109)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
Total	24	23	—	—

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

† As to Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, which was adopted in April, 1891. The standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops will be in accordance with that determined by the Secretary of State, as laid down in "The Sanitary Accommodations Order of 4th February 1903. No. 89."

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)	5
Notified by H.M. Inspector ...	
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors	2
Other...	1
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—	
In use during 1903	2
Certificates granted { in 1903	
in 1904	2
In use at the end of 1904	2
Homework :—	
<i>List of Outworkers*</i> (S. 107) :—	
Lists received	37
Addresses of outworkers { forwarded to other Authorities	158
{ received from other Authorities	—
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—</i>	
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S. 108)	
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises (S. 110)	
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904 :—	
Workshops	68
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here { Workshop Bakehouses	25
{ Domestic Workshops	2
{ Workplaces	11
Total number of Workshops on Register...	106

* The Lists to be received twice in the year.

FIFTY YEARS' RETROSPECT.

The past year, 1904, has been the jubilee of the passing of the Hereford City Improvement Act.

Under the Public Health Act (11 and 12 Vict., c. 63) a Report upon the Sewerage, Drainage, Water Supply, and Sanitary condition of the City of Hereford was made by Mr. T. W. Rammell, Superintending Inspector, dated 20th July, 1853. On 3rd February, 1854, Mr. T. Curley, C.E., Consulting Engineer, issued his Report on the Sewerage, Drainage, and Water Supply of the City.

Subjoined is a summary marking the advance, during the last 50 years, of Sanitary reform *pari passu* with other branches of Municipal Administration conducive to the elevation of the social state of the citizens:—

1854.—Hereford City Improvement Act passed, June 2nd.

.. Main Sewers constructed.

1855.—Cattle Market removed from Aubrey Street to an area of $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres in the new Cattle Market.

1856.—October. Reservoir and Water Supply Works completed.

1865.—Hackney Carriages Act adopted.

1866.—Public Slaughter House opened in October, at a cost of £5,764.

1866-71.—Numerous Bye-Laws adopted connected generally with the good government of the City.

1871.—Public Libraries' Acts, 1855, adopted.

1872.—Further Act passed giving additional powers to City Improvement Act.

.. Gas Works purchased at £55,000 on 30 years' loan, under Section 155 of the Act.

1874.—Medical Officer of Health appointed. His first report dated June 24th, 1874.

.. Free Library and Museum opened, October 8th.

1875.—Public Health Act, 1875, adopted.

1876.—Disinfecting Apparatus purchased; used in September.

1877.—Bye-Laws as to Common Lodging-Houses, Streets, Buildings, etc., adopted.

1879.—Bye-Laws as to Slaughter Houses (private), w.c.'s, Cesspools, Drainage, etc., adopted.

.. Order made on January 14th to divert crude sewage from the River Wye in accordance with the terms of the Rivers Pollution Act, 1876.

1880.—New Gas Works, on a newly-purchased site, completed, £30,000.

1881.—Water Tower for the high-pressure system; foundation laid 19th September.

- 1883-84.—Water Tower completed, June 30th, 1883. High-pressure system of water supplied to Aylstone Hill and Hampton Park.
1885. New Bye Law relating to Hackney Carriages adopted.
- 1887.—Bye-Laws respecting Offensive Trades.
- „ Public Analyst appointed.
- „ Sanitary Inspector appointed, *vice* Inspector of Nuisances.
- 1890.—Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889, adopted in January.
- „ Sewage Outfall Works formally opened in May.
- 1891.—Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, adopted in April.
- „ Public Health Acts Amendments Act, 1890; parts 2, 3, and 5 adopted in April, 1891.
- 1893.—Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases opened.
- 1894.—Webb's Sewer-Gas Destructor Lamps for Ventilation of Sewers adopted.
- 1895.—Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885, regulations adopted.
- 1896.—Cattle Fair removed from the public streets to the Cattle Market.
- „ Museum and Gymnasium Act, 1891, adopted so far as relates to Museum.
- 1898.—Refuse Destructor in use.
- 1899.—Installation of Electric Lighting. Opened 14th December.
- 1901.—Housing of the Working Classes provided by erection of 21 houses at St. Owen's Gate Dwellings.
- 1902.—Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in force in January.
- „ Three Mechanical Filters for filtration preliminary to sedimentation in the Reservoir, formally opened 21st April.
- „ Small-pox Hospital opened 21st April.
- „ Gas Works became the property of the Corporation; 30 years' loan paid up.
- „ Bacterial Sewage purification added as an auxiliary to our intermittent downward filtration and irrigation system.
- 1903.—May 20th, Branch formed in Herefordshire of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption.
- „ Model Bye-Laws revised and adopted.
- „ Telephone communication made between the Mansion House and the Fever and Small-pox Hospitals.
- 1904.—Municipal Buildings, of which the foundation stone was laid on May 13th, 1902, opened under the name of "Town Hall" on June 9th, 1904.
- „ The Incandescent Mantle System of Gas-Lighting adopted to more than 500 public street lamps.

The retrospect of fifty years' municipal administration is gratifying.

In 1853 the average of seven years' death-rate was 27 per 1,000. Thirty years have elapsed since the adoption of the Public Health Act, 1875. During each decade the death-rate has been gradually diminishing.

For ten years 1875 to 1884, the average death-rate per 1,000 was 22.7
 „ 1885 to 1894, „ „ „ 18.59
 „ 1895 to 1904, „ „ „ 16.59

In the past year, 1904, with an increased population of about 6,000 during the last thirty years, the death-rate was 15.11.

Towards the elevation of the intellectual, moral, and social condition of our citizens we have before us the future prospect of increased education and accommodation in our Schools, the provision of more sunlight and air into the dwellings of our Working Classes, the improvement of our Lodging-Houses, the substitution of well-managed Milk Depôts for our numerous Milkshops, with numerous other advancements which engage the attention of our representatives in Council.

The inspection on 17th March of various branches of our Public Works Department by the South Wales Branch of Medical Officers of Health drew their appreciation. It also drew from the Local Government ~~Board~~ Journal the signalisation of our City by the epithet "Happy Hereford." Sharing in the conviction of its justification, I look forward with confidence to our maintenance of this enviable position.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Medical Officer of Health, City of Hereford ; Fellow of the Incorporated Society Medical Officers of Health ; Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health ; Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

TABLE I.

I.

HEREFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and
Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS REGISTERED		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	20580	548	26.6	88	161	391	19.0	60	26	7	372	18
1895	20720	578	27.9	89	138	396	19.1	63	30	5	371	17.9
1896	20860	548	26.2	81	148	385	18.4	72	27	5	363	17.4
1897	21000	553	26.3	66	119	382	18.1	76	37	6	351	16.7
1898	21140	544	25.7	76	140	364	17.2	62	27	6	343	16.2
1899	21250	519	24.4	73	140	384	18.0	78	39	12	357	16.8
1900	21270†	512	24.7	63	123	394	18.5	73	28	8	374	17.6
1901	21400	496	23.1	63	127	379	17.7	90	39	5	345	16.1
1902	21550	526	24.4	59	112	362	16.7	70	27	9	344	15.9
1903	21700	564	25.9	78	138	388	18.1	82	40	5	353	16.2
Averages for years 1894-1903	21147	538	25.5	72	134	382	18.0	72	32	6	357	16.8
1904	21900	489	22.3	59	120	355	16.0	101	33	9	351	15.11

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

† This estimate of population for the year 1900 is calculated upon the withdrawal of Reserves, Militia, and Volunteers to South Africa.

NOTE. The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district, including citizens who have died in the Lunatic Asylum. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

I.	II.	III.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	Other Institutions the Deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
Workhouse.	Lunatic Asylum.	Isolation Hospital.
Hereford General Hospital.		
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).	5,031	Total population at all ages, 21,382 Number of inhabited houses, 4,565 Average number of persons, 4.68
At Census of 1901.		

TABLE II.

HEREFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904, and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				LEDBURY WARD.				LEOMINSTER WARD.				MONMOUTH WARD.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1901 ...	21100	196	345	63	8211	182	122	25	7935	193	110	24	5251	121	83	14
1902 ...	21550	526	344	59	8259	186	125	23	8008	221	137	24	5283	119	82	12
1903 ...	21700	564	353	78	8313	208	132	25	8073	229	137	38	5311	127	81	15
1904	21900	489	331	59	8408	117	125	21	8143	204	116	24	5344	108	90	14

TABLE III.

HEREFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1904.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.					TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.					No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.				
	At Ages—Years.					Ladbury Ward, G.H. W.	Leominster Ward.	Monmouth Ward.	Workhouse, W.	General Hospital.	Ladbury Ward, G.H. W.	Leominster Ward.	Monmouth Ward.	General Hospital.	TOTAL.
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.								
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	34	1	9	15	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Membranous (roup) ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	12	3	2	1	6	26	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	65	3	12	36	8	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...	34	5	8	17	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	179	12	32	70	18	43	4	50	77	45	7	19	17	8	45

The Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases is in the Parish of Tupsley, in Ladbury Ward, within the Liberties of the City.

The Isolation Hospital for Small-pox is in the Parish of Hampton Bishop outside the Liberties of the City.

The Workhouse (W.) and the General Hospital (G. H.) are both in the Ladbury Ward.

TABLE IV.
HEREFORD URBAN DISTRICT.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

IV.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).			TOTAL DEATHS whether Residents or Non- Residents in Public Institu- tions in the District. 12
	All Ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 5. 4	5 and under 15. 5	15 and under 25. 6	25 and under 65. 7	65 and up- wards. 8	Ledbury Ward. 9	Leominster Ward. 10	Monmouth Ward. 11	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	4	...	2	1	1	...	...	2	1	1	4
Whooping Cough	10	5	5	...	...	...	...	4	4	2	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	7	1	3	3	...	...	...	1	3	3	4
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
{ Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	4	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	2	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Enteritis	3	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	1
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	1	1
Other Septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	29	1	...	2	5	19	2	12	10	7	6
Other Tubercular Diseases... ..	12	3	6	2	1	...	...	5	4	3	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease... ..	13	...	...	...	...	4	9	6	4	3	5
Bronchitis	27	7	5	1	...	4	10	10	11	6	1
Pneumonia	33	9	10	...	1	7	6	9	15	9	5
Pleurisy	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs... ..	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Cirrhosis of Liver }	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	3
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Heart Diseases... ..	34	1	1	...	2	11	19	15	15	4	14
Accidents	7	...	2	1	...	2	2	2	3	2	3
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Inquest Cases	11	2	...	...	...	5	4	5	3	3	2
All other causes	115	19	6	1	2	26	61	44	37	34	46
All Causes	331	59	42	11	12	88	119	125	116	90	101

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CITY OF HEREFORD.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1904.

BY

SIDNEY PROTHEROE,

ASSOCIATE, ROYAL SANITARY INSTITUTE.

CITY OF HEREFORD.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1904.

TOWN HALL,

HEREFORD.

JANUARY, 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN.

I beg to submit to you my Report for the year 1904, being the seventh Annual Report I have presented to you.

During the year the number of complaints of nuisances received was 101, and for the abatement of nuisances thus reported and those discovered during my inspection of premises, 383 preliminary Notices were served on the persons by whose act, default, or sufferance the nuisances arose or continued. It is exceedingly gratifying to record that, out of this number, it was only necessary to resort to your Committee for power to serve Statutory Notices in 13 instances.

The following Table shows the number of Notices served as compared with the year 1903, and also the average for the previous five years:—

			Average Number for five years 1898-1902	1903	1904
Preliminary Notices	...	...	472	354	383
Statutory Notices	...	...	48	35	13

SANITARY WORK AND SUPERVISION.

The year has been a very busy one so far as this branch of the Department is concerned, and a large amount of sanitary work has been accomplished. In many instances large outlays of money have been spent to remedy insanitary conditions or to improve surroundings, and it is pleasing to be able to report that, on the whole, there is little difficulty in getting the work done in the manner experience has taught us as necessary and essential.

Detailed particulars of the work carried out and nuisances abated are given further on.

The decrease in the death-rate during the past few years, I think, might be fairly attributed to improved sanitary conditions.

HOUSE PROPERTY.—There is a great deal of old property in Hereford, which, partly from the neglect of landlords, and partly from the untidy habits of tenants, requires almost constant attention from the Health Department. There are many cottages which were erected before the existence of Building Bye-Laws, and these cannot be at all considered healthy and wholesome dwellings. There are very few houses of the cottage class that can boast of a pantry in which to keep food.

Many difficulties are encountered in dealing with insanitary properties, and until further provision has been made by private enterprise or by the Authority, for the persons who would be displaced by the closing of houses unfit for habitation, one can only adopt the policy of temporarily remedying defects. This patching-up is, at the best, a temporary expedient. It is a help, but not a remedy, and the defects consist mainly of a kind which are likely to recur in property of the poorer class, such as dirty and dilapidated internal walls, defective woodwork and floors, and leaky roofs. Dampness is frequently met with, and is chiefly attributable to the fact that the houses are old, and are not provided with a damp-proof course. Other causes are defective, and absence of, paving. These defects or deficiencies have received attention when occasion has arisen.

I have reason to believe that there are many cases of overcrowding in the City, but it is easier to point out an evil than to find a remedy. The Authority has power to call upon the occupier responsible for overcrowding requiring him to abate the nuisance, and, if necessary, to institute proceedings to force him to do so. The accommodation for the poorer classes is insufficient to meet the demands of the poorer people, and the efforts to prevent overcrowding prove futile, the people moving from one small house to another equally small.

DRAINAGE.—The vigilant supervision over alterations to existing, and the construction of new, drainage has been an important aid towards the improvement of the general health of the district. The supervision over the construction and testing of the drainage of new buildings is carried out by the City Surveyor's Department under the Bye-Laws, which require means to be provided for proper disconnection, inspection, and ventilation. In premises where the drains are of old construction there is generally direct aerial communication between the house and the sewer through the want of a proper intercepting trap, and where the re-arrangement of the drainage system is being carried out the work has been done as in the case of new houses. The entire drainage of 43 houses has been re-constructed in this way.

WATERCLOSETS.—The obsolete type of watercloset known as the "long hopper" is gradually becoming less, sixty-four having been taken out during the past year and approved "washdown" basins substituted. During the past seven years three hundred and sixty of the latter have been fixed. Five "pan and container" closets

were found and ordered to be abolished. This is a type that is now rarely met with. In one instance, the wastepipe from a bath was connected to the lead "D" trap of the closet below the water line, and the soil-pipe being unventilated made matters worse. There is no doubt that offensive odours emanated from this glaring piece of insanitary work, and why it had remained hidden so long is, that the premises were at one time occupied by the owner, and afterwards by relatives who did not wish to complain to the Inspector.

There are few closets, if any, which are not provided with a supply of water for flushing purposes, but where waterclosets are used in common, the fittings are constantly getting out of order. In 73 instances defective flushing apparatus has been remedied.

YARD PAVING.—During wet periods the surfaces of back yards are in an insanitary condition owing to defective, or absence of impervious, paving.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, was adopted by the Town Council in April, 1891, and Bye-Laws were made in April, 1904, under Sect. 23, which provide for the paving of yards, and open spaces in connection with existing dwelling-houses, where it is necessary for the prevention or remedy of insanitary conditions, and for not less than 150 square feet of paving for new dwelling-houses.

This Bye-Law gives the Authority more power in this direction than was possible under the Nuisance Clauses of the Public Health Act of 1875, as it is not necessary to prove that a nuisance exists.

During the past year the yards and passages, or necessary portions thereof, at 45 houses have been relaid.

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT.

The following summary gives details of the sanitary work carried out and the nuisances abated during the year 1904, as compared with 1903, together with the work done during the years 1898 to 1902 inclusive :—

DRAINAGE—	1898-1902.	1903.	1904.
Obstructed drains opened and cleansed	237	113	92
Defective drainage repaired or relaid	802	152	240
Houses with insufficient drainage, extra provided	63	5	11
Houses connected to public sewer	26	1	0
Drains disconnected from River Wye or brooks	19	2	0
Glazed stoneware gullies fixed	1383	191	303
Patent "Ball" traps fixed in areas and cellars	3	3	1
Grease interceptors fixed	11	2	3
Drains removed from inside houses	118	13	19
" " " " washhouses	57	9	11
Sewer interceptors fixed	112	19	23
Disconnecting and inspection chambers constructed	227	37	72
Inspection chambers repaired	12	13	3
Ventilating shafts fixed or repaired	198	37	46
New cesspools constructed... ..	8	1	1
Cesspools cleansed out	18	1	10
" provided with air-tight covers	12	1	4
" abolished	6	0	4

WATER CLOSETS, PRIVIES, AND URINALS	1898-1902.	1903.	1904.
Obstructed W.C.'s opened and cleansed	251	28	31
Dilapidated W.C.'s repaired	327	87	90
" " rebuilt	68	7	9
New " washdown " basins fixed	239	57	64
New seats fixed to W.C.'s	93	38	49
Floors of W.C.'s relaid	80	22	22
Roofs of W.C.'s repaired	100	30	21
Insanitary " Pan " and other closets removed and pedestal basins fixed	99	23	33
Soil-pipes removed from inside houses	12	4	5
" repaired or renewed	59	8	13
Insufficient accommodation, extra W.C.'s or earth-closets erected	68	5	9
W.C.'s and earth-closets converted into automatic flushing trough water-closets	14	0	0
Water supply provided to W.C.'s	113	34	24
Defective flushing apparatus repaired or new provided	312	52	73
Automatic flushing cisterns fixed	4	0	0
Filthy water and earth-closets linewashed	268	61	81
Privies converted into water-closets	8	1	1
" " " earth-closets	50	8	8
" cleaned out and abolished	6	1	0
Urinals constructed	13	3	0
" repaired and linewashed	41	6	4
DWELLING-HOUSES, ETC.			
Filthy and dilapidated houses cleansed and repaired	252	80	60
Houses closed as unfit for habitation	26	4	7
Houses stripped and cleansed after infectious disease	15	4	7
Schools disinfected or cleansed	0	2	3
House roofs repaired	265	64	53
Wash-house and kitchen roofs repaired	95	30	42
Chimneys raised or repaired	38	0	29
Floors relaid or repaired	87	53	33
Dangerous stairs and defective windows repaired	55	36	30
Dangerous cellar windows repaired	11	4	0
Cases of overcrowding abated	14	1	2
Dilapidated wash-houses repaired	57	5	14
" " rebuilt	31	3	6
Filthy wash-houses lime-washed	128	19	38
" passages	2	1	4
" cellars	5	3	4
Stagnant water removed from cellars	11	5	7
Yards and passages paved or paving relaid	332	51	45
Water supply provided to houses	20	0	5
Defective pumps repaired	6	0	5
Dangerous disused wells filled up	13	0	84
Polluted wells closed	4	0	2
Wells cleaned out or repaired	2	3	4
SINKS, WASTE-PIPES, AND SPOTTING--			
Dilapidated sinks repaired	98	7	15
New glazed stoneware sinks fixed	232	30	54
Waste-pipes provided to sinks	331	44	69

	1898-1902.	1903.	1904.
Sink pipes disconnected from drains	32	1	15
Bath and Lavatory waste-pipes disconnected from drains...	54	9	9
Rain water pipes disconnected from drains	357	59	85
Spouting repaired (houses)	417	117	97
„ provided to houses where none existed	150	19	6
KEEPING OF ANIMALS AND MANURE			
Stables paved and drained... ..	28	7	9
Floors of slaughter-houses and lairagepens relaid	4	0	1
„ „ cowsheds relaid	3	4	0
Nuisances from animals improperly kept abated	145	9	23
Keeping of swine discontinued	34	4	5
Boiling of offal discontinued	6	0	0
Pigs-cots repaired or pulled down	26	3	10
Accumulation of manure and refuse removed	244	17	48
Manure pits repaired	3	1	1
MISCELLANEOUS			
Dairies and cowsheds limewashed on notice	23	0	0
Bakehouses „ „	27	0	7
Slaughterhouses „ „	15	1	2
Tripe boiling places „ „	1	0	0
Workshops „ „	12	27	3
Common lodging-houses „ „	58	14	14
Overcrowding of Workshops abated	0	2	0
Drains inside dairies removed	4	1	0
„ „ bakehouses removed	2	2	1
„ „ tripe boiling places removed	3	0	0
Hoods provided to tripe boiling furnaces or stoves	3	0	1
Bakehouse ceilings plastered or boarded	2	0	2
Ashpits abolished	2	0	1

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS, 1890 TO 1903.

At the close of the year 1903, three cottages situated in Cross Street, Blackmarstone, for which a closing order had been applied for, and which had been adjourned until March, 1904, to give the owner an opportunity of executing alterations and repairs, have since been greatly improved, and at the adjourned hearing the case was withdrawn on payment of the costs.

Two other houses situated at Nos. 20 and 21, Little Berrington Street, one of which was closed by order of the Magistrates and the other voluntarily by the owner, have been renovated and cleansed, and allowed to be re-occupied.

Seven houses in Bewell Street, Nos. 23, 24, and five houses at the rear, for which a Closing Order was granted by the Justices in 1903, were vacated during 1904. Notices to quit were served upon the occupiers, and time was granted them to find other dwellings, which they did by probably joining other householders.

During 1904 I have drawn the attention of the Medical Officer of Health to only one house, No. 4, King Street, which he represented as unfit for human habitation, and which was voluntarily closed by the owner.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

A resumé of the various duties imposed upon Sanitary Authorities under this Act, which came into operation on January 1st, 1902, was given in the Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health and myself in 1902.

The following are particulars of the administration of the Act during 1904 :—

Classification.	No. on Register.	No. of Visits by Sanitary Inspector.	Number of Notices served.			
			To abate Nuisances under Public Health Act, 1875.	To provide Ventilation.	Requiring Limewashing under F. and W. Act, 1901.	To provide suitable Sanitary Conveniences under Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
Workshops ...	68 (120 Work-rooms)	83	5	1	3	—
Domestic Workshops	2	2	—	—	—	—
Workplaces...	11	16	2	—	—	—
Retail Bake-houses ..	25	60	1	1	7	—
Factory Bake-houses ...	4	6	—	—	—	—
Factories ...	10	3	2	—	—	1
Totals ...	120	170	10	2	10	1

The Notices referred to in the above Table were served upon owners or occupiers to remedy the following defects :—

Defective and untrapped drains ...	8
Defective waterclosets ...	4
Insanitary " Pan " waterclosets ...	2
Offensive urinals ...	2
Unventilated soil-pipes ...	2
Dilapidated and insufficient watercloset ...	1
Filthy and unventilated workshop ...	1
Dilapidated and insufficiently ventilated bakehouse	1
Accumulations of refuse ...	5

Notices were received from H.M. Inspector of the following sanitary defects in workshops, remediable under the Public Health Acts :—

Limewashing required ...	1
" and ventilation required ...	1
Insanitary watercloset ...	1
Unsuitable sanitary conveniences ...	2

The first three matters were remedied, but in regard to the unsuitable sanitary conveniences no further action was taken owing to the premises in one instance not being within one hundred feet of the public sewer, and in the other the public sewer is not at a sufficient depth to allow waterclosets to be substituted for the existing system.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 29 Bakehouses in the City, two of which are " Underground Bakehouses " as defined by Section 101 (3) of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and four come under the

definition of " Factory." Certificates as to suitability for the two " Underground Bakehouses " were granted in May, 1901, under Section 101 (2 and 5).

The bakehouses on the whole are cleanly and well kept.

HOME WORK. It is compulsory on the occupiers of factories and workshops to keep lists of the names, and addresses, of persons employed by them to execute work at their own homes, and to forward copies of such lists to the Local Authority on the first days of February and August in each year. Prescribed forms of lists are forwarded to the various tradespeople who employ persons in such classes of work as are specified, and these have been duly filled in and returned as required by the Act. Nineteen lists containing the names and addresses of 81 outworkers were received in February, and eighteen lists containing 77 outworkers in August. These addresses were all visited, but there was no necessity to take any action in regard to unwholesome premises, and no infectious disease was reported at any of the houses.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

There were 13 dairies, 19 cowsheds, and 32 milkshops on the Register kept under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885, together with the names of 27 purveyors of milk, of which latter 21 reside outside the City but retail milk within the City. Two hundred and eight visits were paid to premises within the City. The registration of the names of 9 persons was transferred during the year, the business having changed hands, and two applications for registration of milkshops were not granted, the premises being unsuitable for the storage of milk.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are seven registered Common Lodging-Houses in the City, having accommodation for 122 lodgers. The following are the addresses:—

- 7, Little Berrington Street.
- 14, " " "
- 53, Berrington Street. "
- 22, Bewell Street.
- 37, St. Owen Street.
- 38, " "
- 39 & 41, " "

Frequent visits have been paid them during the year, and the necessary limewashing has been carried out, in accordance with Section 82 of the Public Health Act, 1875. ✱

In my Report for 1903 I stated that none of the premises are adapted for occupation as Common Lodging-Houses, not having been built for the purpose. They are among some of the oldest property in the City, and leave much to be desired in the way of decency, and sanitary conveniences, and I am pleased to see that the question of erecting a Municipal Lodging-House in connection with the proposed Bewell Street Improvement Scheme is receiving the earnest attention of your Committee.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are five private Slaughter-Houses in the City, and they have each been visited from time to time. It was only necessary on two occasions to draw the attention of the occupiers to the fact that the premises required limewashing.

UN SOUND FOOD.

No legal proceedings were taken in regard to unsound food during the year, but the carcase of a cow, seventeen couple of rabbits, a hare, two hundred and twenty pounds of potatoes, fifty pounds of strawberries, and seven pounds of bananas were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed. The cow referred to was slaughtered at the Public Slaughter-Houses, and after being dressed the meat was dark, sodden, and ill-bled.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The offensive trades, as defined by Section 112 of the Public Health Act, 1875, are the same as referred to in my last Annual Report, *i.e.*—3 Fellmongers, 1 Gut Scraper, 1 Tanner and Leather Dresser, and 9 Tripe Boilers.

An application for permission to establish a hide and skin receiving dépôt in Newtown Road was refused by your Committee, the premises not being at all adapted for the purpose, and in close proximity to dwelling-houses.

No action has been required to be taken in connection with trades of this class already established.

WELL WATER.

The number of samples of well water submitted to the Medical Officer of Health during the past year for qualitative examination was 61, collected from 42 wells. The water from 5 wells was certified to be unfit for drinking and domestic purposes, one of which was closed for domestic use, and the town water laid on to the premises. Two wells were cleaned out and alterations executed which had the effect of improving the water so as to be safe for drinking purposes. The remaining two wells at a large house on the boundary of the City are still under consideration, the supply in the meantime being obtained from the town mains.

Of the 61 samples collected, 49 were obtained from 33 wells in the Westfields district. In February and March the water from two wells in this district was suspicious. One was from a new well, the top of which had not been properly constructed. This was re-constructed, and upon re-examination the water was found to be good. Further examinations of the other well were also favourable.

* In June a well in Westfield Street was accidentally polluted by the backing up of sewage from one of the cesspools. The well, which was a new one, was not satisfactorily constructed, being of dry brickwork, and the top below the surface of the ground. The owner, upon receiving notice, promptly had the well thoroughly cleansed, the top eight feet constructed in two rings of brickwork in cement, carried to one foot above the ground level, and the outside puddled with clay. Samples of the water were afterwards submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, and to the City Analyst,

Dr. A. Bostock Hill, and they reported the water to be safe for drinking purposes. A special report was presented to your Committee in July on the water supply and closet accommodation at Westfields.

THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 TO 1899.

The following Table shows the number and nature of articles purchased during 1904 and the result of the analysis:—

Article.	Number of Samples purchased.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Cautioned.	Proceedings taken.	Result of Proceedings.	
						Dismissed.	
							Fines. Costs.
						£ s. d.	£ s. d.
New Milk 	41	39	2	1	1	1	—
Butter 	11	11		—			—
Margarine 	1	1					
Lard 	1	1	—	—			
Coffee 	3	3	—	—			—
White Pepper 	3	3					
Baking Powder 	1	1					
Golden Syrup 	1	1					
Flowers of Sulphur 	1	1	—	—	—		—
TOTAL 	63	61	2	1	1	1	—

EXTENT OF ADULTERATION.

MILK.—Four samples were down to the level of the minimum standard of the Board of Agriculture as regards fat, but must be considered genuine.

One sample was 4 per cent. below the standard as regards non-fatty solids, indicative of added water, and the City Analyst recommended that the vendor be cautioned.

One sample was deficient of 11 per cent. of its milk fat on the legal standard, the result of analysis showing 2.65 per cent. of milk third portion of the sample was submitted to the Government fat. (The vendor was summoned, and relied upon a certificate from an analytical chemist, which showed 2.97 per cent. of milk fat. The Laboratory, and the analysts there certified that, after three analyses by two different processes, the amount of fat in the three estimations was (1) 2.50 per cent., (2) 2.50 per cent., and (3) 2.51 per cent. of milk fat, and that, having regard to the "Sale of Milk Regulations of 1901," the sample was deficient of 16 per cent. of milk fat. This practically confirmed the City Analyst's analysis. The reason, no doubt, why the results from the Government

Laboratory show figures slightly worse than the City Analyst is that it is impossible to make such a correct analysis when the milk has become decomposed. At the adjourned hearing, the Justices dismissed the case on the ground that no offence had been committed, the defendant having sold the milk as taken from the cows).

The foregoing Table is a testimony to the efficacy of a continuous and consistent administration of the Food and Drugs Acts, and the following is an extract from the City Analyst's report upon the samples submitted to him during the year:—

"During the year sixty-three samples were submitted by the Inspectors, and it is very gratifying to have to report that only one sample on analysis proved to be adulterated. This, to my mind, is a proof of the value of the Food and Drugs Acts when put into operation and properly enforced, as they have been in Hereford of late years."

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

The following Tables give the particulars of the summonses issued during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

Offence.	Fine.	Costs.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
An obsolete and insanitary "pan" closet and un-ventilated soil-pipe.	—	0 7 0	Order made to abate nuisance in 14 days and to pay costs. Work done.

BYE-LAWS.

Offence.	Fine.	Costs.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Keeping more than three pigs within prescribed distance.	1 0 0	1 9 6	

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875 TO 1899.

Offence.	Fine.	Costs.	Remarks.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
Selling New Milk deficient of 11 per cent. of its milk fat on the legal standard.	—	—	Dismissed on ground that no offence had been committed, the defendant having sold the milk as taken from the cows. (See remarks in report on Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

A Table of the cases of Infectious Disease notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1904 will be found in his Report.

It may not be out of place to give a short account of the methods adopted in dealing with cases of Infectious Disease.

Immediately upon receiving information, the house is visited and various particulars are obtained and recorded on an authorised form; these are afterwards entered in a register. In this way a complete record is kept of every case, such as the name, age, and address of the patient, the date of the commencement of the illness, the number of people in the house, the places of business, and the Day and Sunday Schools attended. The source of the milk supply is obtained; the character of the house and its sanitary condition are also noted. Enquiries are also made as to the probable source of infection, although it is only in a few cases that information bearing on the point can be obtained.

The principal steps taken in endeavouring to arrest the spread of infectious disease are (1) the removal of nuisances, (2) isolation, and (3) disinfection. The question of insanitary conditions has been dealt with elsewhere in this report. With regard to isolation, the advantages of an Isolation Hospital are unquestionable, and the Scarlet Fever Hospital at Tupsley has fulfilled satisfactorily the purpose for which it was established.

Out of the 65 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year 1904, 54 of which occurred during the latter three months of the year, 45 were removed to the Hospital for isolation, as compared with 12 out of 24 notified during 1903. This has been the greatest number admitted into the Hospital during one year since its erection in 1893, except during the year 1895, when 70 patients were admitted out of 155 affected. Prompt removal of the cases under the personal care of the Matron (Miss Stafford) has, in my opinion, been the means of preventing what, at one time, promised to be a serious epidemic, but I am glad to be able to report that, at the close of the year, the outbreak showed signs of abating.

At every house where Scarlet Fever occurs a list of precautions to be taken, containing abstracts from the Acts on the subject, is left, to supplement verbal instructions.

One hundred and forty notices were sent to the Head Teachers of the Day Schools, and the Superintendents of the Sunday Schools, notifying to them the occurrence of infectious disease in houses of children attending school, and requesting them to exclude all children at that house from school until disinfection had been carried out.

Disinfectants are supplied where needed, during the illness, free of cost, and immediately after a case is removed to the Hospital, and where a case has been kept at home, after the period of infection is over, the bedding is removed for steam disinfection, and has invariably been returned the same day. Fifty-eight lots of bedding and clothing have been disinfected in the apparatus situate in the Hospital grounds, exclusive of the clothing worn by patients in the Hospital, which is disinfected previous to their discharge. The disinfection of rooms has been done by generating Formic

Aldehyde Gas in an "Alformant" lamp, and this has been carried out at 64 houses, in one instance as many as six rooms being done in one house. This disinfection is performed free of charge to the householder.

In several instances where a death from Consumption has occurred, occupiers have asked for the room occupied by the patient to be disinfected, and this has been done.

CITY ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

At the close of 1903 there were no cases of Scarlet Fever remaining in under treatment, the last case having been discharged in October. During the year 1904, 45 cases were admitted, 28 were discharged, 4 proved fatal, and there were 13 remaining at the close of the year. The highest number of patients in at one time was 26, and additional nursing assistance had to be obtained.

The management and maintenance of the institution has occupied a considerable portion of the attention of the Sanitary Committee, and, in consequence of the larger number of admissions than usual, the work of the responsible officers increased considerably.

On November 10th I reported upon the administration at the Hospital to a special meeting of your Committee, and upon your recommendation the Town Council approved an estimated expenditure of £333 for the erection of a new ironing room, extensions to existing laundry, the provision of a further system of hot water supply and heating apparatus for No. 2 block, and the extensions of the City gas mains to allow gas to be substituted for oil lamps. These improvements, when carried out, will meet a long-felt want, and will greatly facilitate the efficient working of the Hospital, besides affording greater security from fire. In addition, your Committee has approved of the appointment of a Probationer.

In conclusion, I again beg to thank the Chairman, and Members of your Committee, for the continuous consideration and support you have always extended to me in the discharge of my duties, and also for the privilege of attending the Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute in July last as delegate with the Chairman and City Surveyor. I am also indebted to the Medical Officer of Health, the Hospital Matron, the City Surveyor, and other officials for their continuous, kind, and valuable co-operation.

The work of the Department has been much facilitated by the greater comfort and convenience in the office provided at the new Town Hall.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

SIDNEY PROTHEROE,

Assoc., R. San. Inst.,

Sanitary Inspector.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector, City of Hereford, 1904.

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